

# WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING – A STOCKTAKE OF PRACTICE IN AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

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## ABSTRACT

The Australian Council for Educational Research is undertaking a project for the Office of Chief Scientist to synthesise knowledge and practice in the application of Work Integrated Learning within university science, mathematics, information technology and agriculture curricular. This conference occurs in the middle of the fieldwork phase of this project, and offers an opportunity for the researchers to discuss issues, 'test' findings and further strengthen the potential outcomes of this project.

The aim of this session would be to (re-)introduce attendees to the project; present some initial findings based on literature reviewed, and interviews undertaken to date; and seek insight from the session participants on their practice and knowledge of WIL. The session will complement the Plenary speech being given by Dr Roslyn Prinsley the National Advisor, Maths and Science Education at the conference.

## THE ISSUE

This session addresses various aims of this conference. In particular, the extent to which there is a connection between the student, the university and the workplace in the curricular and teaching practice of higher education institutions in Australia.

## THE APPROACH

This work builds on existing and ongoing work undertaken by the Office of Chief Scientist in the area of education in STEM, the relationship between this education and the workplace, and the generation of ideas to stimulate interest in these fields and attract students to studying these fields. The research team have background knowledge in the application of WIL in Australian institutions and draw on a range of prior projects covering teaching, learning, policy and practice in higher education.

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